

1 Claims:

2 1. A method for establishing a conference between two or more users,
3 comprising the steps of:

- 4 (a) registering participants in the conference;
5 (b) providing software to said participants, said software permitting the
6 participant to have a screen name and password security, said software
7 providing a communication device between participants when the participants
8 are connected to a public network such as the world wide web; and,
9 (c) installing the software on said participants' computers.

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11 2. A method for establishing an electronic convention comprising the steps of:

- 12 (a) providing a central server programmed with convention software adapted
13 (i) to register participants to a convention over a publicly accessible or privately
14 accessible computer network,
15 (ii) make available over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer
16 network information of interest to said participants to said convention; and
17 (iii) receive information from said participants over said publicly accessible or
18 privately accessible computer network; and
19 (b) providing a plurality of screens to participants from said central server, at
20 least one of said screens including a hyperlink which may be clicked on to
21 transfer traffic to a second server other than said central server, said second
22 server performing at least one convention function.

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24 3. A method as in claim 2, wherein said second server provides a plurality of
25 pages, at least one of which pages on said second server has a button which may
26 be clicked on to return a convention registrant to said central server.

4. A method as in claim 2, wherein said second server provides a plurality of pages, at least half of said pages on said second server having a respective button which may be clicked on to return a convention registrant to said central server.

5. A method for establishing an electronic convention comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a central server programmed with convention software adapted
 - (i) to register participants to a convention over a publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network,
 - (ii) make available over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network information of interest to said participants to said convention; and
 - (iii) receive information from said participants over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network; and
- (b) providing a screen providing the option to convention registrants of a convention email account with a known limited period of existence, said screen informing the registrant respecting the time limited nature of said convention e-mail account.

6. A method for establishing an electronic convention comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a central server programmed with convention software adapted
 - (i) to register participants to a convention over a publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network,
 - (ii) make available over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network information of interest to said participants to said convention, wherein said information is made available in the form of a plurality of website pages; and
 - (iii) receive information from said participants over said publicly accessible or

privately accessible computer network;
 (b) making available to potential registrants to said electronic convention a page receiving identification and money transfer information;
 (c) making available to persons which register into said electronic convention all website pages; and
 (d) making available to persons who do not register into said electronic convention only a limited number of website pages.

7. A method as in claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

(f) detecting the clicking by a potential registrant on any function meant to present a website page other than one of said limited number of website pages; and
 (g) making available to potential registrants, in response to the detection of the clicking on a function meant to present a website page other than one of said limited number of website pages, said page receiving identification and money transfer information.

8. A method as in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

(h) giving a potential registrant who has been given the option in response to the detection of the clicking on a function meant to present a website page other than one of said limited number of website pages, said page receiving identification and money transfer information, further option of deciding not to register; and
 (i) returning said potential registrant to the limited access browsing allowed by the system.

9. A method for establishing an electronic convention comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a central server programmed with convention software adapted
 - (i) to register participants to a convention over a publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network,
 - (ii) make available over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network information of interest to said participants to said convention; and
 - (iii) receive information from said participants over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network; and
 - (b) providing a screen to convention participants to provide the functions of a presentation by a speaker, said screens including:
 - (i) a picture of the speaker,
 - (ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the speaker, and
 - (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker,
 - (iv) a field for receiving said question, and
 - (v) a button for sending said question to set speaker to be included with any response within said window with a scrolling feature.
10. A method for establishing an electronic convention comprising the steps of:
- (a) providing a central server programmed with convention software adapted
 - (i) to register participants to a convention over a publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network,
 - (ii) make available over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network information of interest to said participants to said convention; and
 - (iii) receive information from said participants over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer network; and
 - (b) providing a screen to participants from said central server, said screen serving as a bulletin board and including general messages to participants

located in areas organized according to topic.

11. A method as in claim 10, further comprising the step of:

providing a plurality of screens to participants from said central server, at least one of said screens including a hyperlink which may be clicked on to transfer traffic to a second server other than said central server, said second server performing at least one convention function.

12. A method as in claim 11, further comprising the step of:

providing a screen providing the option to convention registrants of a convention email account with a known limited period of existence, said screen informing the registrant respecting the time limited nature of said convention e-mail account.

13. A method as in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

(a) making available to potential registrants to said electronic convention a page receiving identification and money transfer information;

(b) making available to persons which register into said electronic convention all website pages; and

(c) making available to persons who do not register into said electronic convention only a limited number of website pages.

14. A method as in claim 13, further comprising the step of:

providing a screen to convention participants to provide the functions of a presentation by a speaker, said screens presented:

(i) a picture of the speaker,

(ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the

speaker, and
 (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker,
 (iv) a field for receiving said question, and
 (v) a button for sending said question to set speaker to be included with any
 response within said window with a scrolling feature.

15. A method as in claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) making available to potential registrants to said electronic convention a page
 receiving identification and money transfer information;
- (b) making available to persons which register into said electronic convention
 all website pages; and
- (c) making available to persons who do not register into said electronic
 convention only a limited number of website pages.

16. A method as in claim 15, further comprising the step of:

providing a screen to convention participants to provide the functions of a
 presentation by a speaker, said screens presented:

- (i) a picture of the speaker,
- (ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the
 speaker, and
- (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker,
- (iv) a field for receiving said question, and
- (v) a button for sending said question to set speaker to be included with any
 response within said window with a scrolling feature.

17. A method as in claim 11, further comprising the step of:

providing a screen to convention participants to provide the functions of a

presentation by a speaker, said screens presented:

- (i) a picture of the speaker,
- (ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the speaker, and
- (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker,
- (iv) a field for receiving said question, and
- (v) a button for sending said question to set speaker to be included with any response within said window with a scrolling feature.

18. A method as in claim 10, further comprising the step of:

providing a screen providing the option to convention registrants of a convention email account with a known limited period of existence, said screen informing the registrant respecting the time limited nature of said convention e-mail account.

19. A method as in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) making available to potential registrants to said electronic convention a page receiving identification and money transfer information;
- (b) making available to persons which register into said electronic convention all website pages; and
- (c) making available to persons who do not register into said electronic convention only a limited number of website pages.

20. A method as in claim 19, further comprising the step of:

providing a screen to convention participants to provide the functions of a presentation by a speaker, said screens presented:

- (i) a picture of the speaker,

- (ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the speaker, and
- (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker,
- (iv) a field for receiving said question, and
- (v) a button for sending said question to set speaker to be included with any response within said window with a scrolling feature.

21. A method as in claim 18, further comprising the step of:
providing a screen to convention participants to provide the functions of a presentation by a speaker, said screens presented:

- (i) a picture of the speaker,
- (ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the speaker, and
- (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker,
- (iv) a field for receiving said question, and
- (v) a button for sending said question to set speaker to be included with any response within said window with a scrolling feature.

22. A method as in claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
(a) making available to potential registrants to said electronic convention a page receiving identification and money transfer information;
(b) making available to persons which register into said electronic convention all website pages; and
(c) making available to persons who do not register into said electronic convention only a limited number of website pages.

23. A method as in claim 22, further comprising the step of:

providing a screen to convention participants to provide the functions of a presentation by a speaker, said screens presented:

- (i) a picture of the speaker,
- (ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the speaker, and
- (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker,
- (iv) a field for receiving said question, and
- (v) a button for sending said question to set speaker to be included with any response within said window with a scrolling feature.

24. A method as in claim 10, further comprising the step of:

providing a screen to convention participants to provide the functions of a presentation by a speaker, said screens presented:

- (i) a picture of the speaker,
- (ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the speaker, and
- (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker,
- (iv) a field for receiving said question, and
- (v) a button for sending said question to set speaker to be included with any response within said window with a scrolling feature.

25. A method for a plurality of electronic conventions, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing through a publicly accessible computer network a website with a conventions homepage including a list of a plurality of conventions being hosted;
- (b) highlighting a convention listed in said list in response to its being clicked on by a potential convention registrant;

(c) providing a central server programmed with convention software adapted
 (i) to register participants to be highlighted convention over a publicly accessible
 or privately accessible computer network,
 (ii) make available over said publicly accessible or privately accessible computer
 network information of interest to said participants to said said highlighted
 convention; and
 (iii) receive information from said participants over said publicly accessible or
 privately accessible computer network; and
 (b) providing a plurality of screens associated with said highlighted convention
 to participants.

26. A method as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of screens associated with
 said highlighted convention are provided by said central server.

27. A method as in claim 25, wherein, in the event that a visitor to said website
 has not selected a convention, he may be prompted, after clicking on an icon to
 select one convention or the other.